

LETTERS SECURED BY U. S. SHOW JOHN D., JR.'S HAND GUIDED COLORADO STRIKE

Kansas City, Mo., April 24.—That John D. Rockefeller, Jr., was the "brains" of the Colorado mine strike which resulted in the murder of men, women and children, is shown by telegrams and letters exchanged between him and officials of the Colorado Fuel & Iron Co., according to Frank P. Walsh, chairman of the U. S. commission on industrial relations. These communications are of so startling a nature that Rockefeller, Jr., will be recalled to the stand when the commission resumes its public hearings in Washington May 4.

The correspondence shows, according to Walsh, that Rockefeller, Jr., who testified he kept his hands off the situation, was in reality the directing mind, exercising a personal influence which extended even to the state house in Denver and presumed to dictate letters which went out to the president of the U. S. and to the governors of states over the signature of the governor of Colorado. That he withheld from the Dep't of Labor in Washington information asked for when Secretary Wilson sought to avert the strike before it was called.

More details of the letters were made public at Walsh's Chicago office today.

Among the letters Walsh has is one from L. M. Bowers, chairman of the mine company's executive committee, to Rockefeller telling of a trip through the strike region with Ethelbert Stewart.

"He was told," reads the letter, "that we would work such mines as we could protect and would close every other and that the writer and every official of this company would stand by this declaration until our bones were bleached as white as chalk in these Rocky Mountains."

Then, the letter runs, says Walsh: "We can keep our steel works run-

ning and supply our railroad friends with coal to keep them going in good shape until the strike is over."

"This," says Walsh, "was at a time when the people of Colorado were suffering for coal, the price had been advanced until thousands of families were without fuel."

That Rockefeller was personally taking a hand in the strike situation is shown by a letter from him to Bowers regarding refusal to meet union leaders in which he said: "Their position (refusal to meet strike leaders) meets with our cordial approval and we shall support them to the end."

"In one letter," said Walsh, "Mr. Bowers indulges in some political speculation that is very interesting. He writes: 'This strike has brought to the front an issue that will secure attention and I believe the co-operation, of the business men of the country, regardless of political affiliations, to force candidates for office to come out in the open and declare their attitude toward the rights of employers and employees to run an open shop.'

"We all know that the politicians have been giving organized labor sops for the purpose of securing their votes, regardless of the fact that the great mass of laboring men have no connection with labor unions, including millions of farmers, believe there is no man in either the Republican or Democratic parties who would dare to come out in opposition to the open shop."

Bowers' reports grew optimistic just before the Ludlow massacre, says Walsh, the executive informing Rockefeller that the United Mine Workers were pinched as never before and that it was only a matter of time until they would be forced out of funds.

"Perhaps the most amazing revelation in this whole extraordinary cor-